

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY

Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 20 June 1948

SUBJECT

New Troops in Forst Area; Training at Cottbus Airfield

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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1. Between 4 and 10 April 1948, entire villages in the area between Cottbus (A57) and Forst (A77) were ordered evacuated by their German inhabitants. The Soviet units that have arrived in this area, numbering about 8,000 Mongolian armored troops, are reported to come from outside Germany; others were shipped westward through Cottbus and Forst. Approximately 15,000 troops have arrived in the area Deukau (A45), Calau (A26), Finsterwalde (A15); these troops also are said to have come from outside the Russian Zone. 25X1A

Comment:

(in an unclassified report) that recent troop movements involved only units within the zone. The paragraph above apparently is the result of a later trip.) 25X1A

2. On 24 April, Cottbus airfield held sixty-two YAK-1's and twenty-eight YAK-3's. [redacted] to be occupied, believes there are aircraft in addition to those counted on the field. Personnel are being trained in solo and formation flying, the latter in flights of three and nine planes. Damaged hangar roofs are being repaired and the rail siding functioning. [redacted] disposition of aircraft on the field gave an impression of a total lack of organization. Little road traffic was noticed; trucks [redacted]

3. A "considerable number" of single engine fighter aircraft were seen on a former GAF field between Oranienburg (Z67) and Kremmen (Z57) in mid-April. 25X1A

Comment: Further information is expected on this field. Source emphasizes that it is not the Heinkel aircraft factory airport near Oranienburg.)

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4. On 22 April, a PW transport from Russia was observed at Torgau (E64). The PW's appeared unusually well nourished, and there were some sixty girls among the returnees. On the same day, same place, an eastbound shipment of Buchenwald concentration camp inmates was observed; the train consisted of twenty-two freight cars and was guarded by MVD troops with dogs.

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5. In early April, the area between Schleiz (J82) and Flauen (K12) was occupied by a rifle regiment, a motorized AF unit, and an artillery detachment with twelve long-barreled motorized guns. These troops are alleged to have come from the USSR. The command post is in Hirschberg (J90).

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